

**HEMATOLOGY FOR STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS.** By Willis M. Fowler, M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Iowa. Revised Second Edition. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., New York, 1949. \$8.50.

This volume is the outgrowth of a series of mimeographed notes on hematology used for teaching medical students. It is designed to meet the needs of the student, the internist and the general practitioner for a concise, practical book on the subject. It fills this need. It is not a reference book for hematology—as the author freely admits (a bibliography at the end of each chapter gives the key to supplementary material). While the coverage is broad and good, it is not deep. The author passes lightly over controversial matters. One has the feeling that the material has been capably gleaned from the literature rather than from intensive personal experience.

There are a few inconsistencies: With regard to the Wintrobe method for the determination of the sedimentation rate and the hematocrit, for instance, heparin is stated to be the anticoagulant on page 502 while ammonium and potassium oxalate are given on page 511. And there are some debatable statements: On page 84, the author repeats the old belief that pernicious anemia is seldom, if ever, found in negroes. (Recent work suggests that this is not the case.) Perhaps the weakest chapter is the one on "hematologic methods." So few details are given for some of the operations outlined that the student must go to the original source or to a laboratory manual for complete data.

New material in the second edition includes discussions on the use of folic acid (particularly in sprue and pernicious anemia); the use of urethane in leukemia; of nitrogen mustard in the lymphomas; and of radiophosphorus in the treatment of polycythemia and the leukemias.

It is recommended as a useful addition to the medical bookshelf.

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**A PSYCHIATRIC APPROACH TO THE TREATMENT OF PROMISCUITY.** By Benno Safier, M.D., Director of Psychiatric Service, San Francisco City Clinic; Hazle G. Corrigan, Chief Psychiatric Social Worker; Eleanor J. Fein, Psychiatric Social Worker; Katherine P. Bradway, Ph.D., Psychologist; with foreword by William F. Snow, M.D., American Social Hygiene Association, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y., 1949. Seventy-five cents.

This book is a further discussion of the psychiatric study and treatment of promiscuity which was carried out in San Francisco under a special grant from the United States Public Health Service. The original report of the initial studies attracted a great deal of attention not only in the United States, but all over the world. The present volume is a further analysis and discussion of the use of the psychiatric approach to the treatment of promiscuity.

Since not only the general public but many physicians have a great deal of misinformation on the subject, the present volume can be recommended for general reading. The original report dealt entirely with women. The present book includes the study of men as well.

The material is from a somewhat selected group, but the conclusions drawn from this study seem quite justified. Certain conclusions which are in accord with the standard psychiatric viewpoint seem worth emphasizing. Promiscuity is not ordinarily evidence that the individual is hypersexed or has a stronger than average sex drive. Promiscuity is frequently in relationship to special emotional problems, and the solving of these emotional problems often leads to a much better and more satisfactory type of sexual adjustment.

The analysis of the bases of promiscuity is too involved to be dealt with in a short book review. It is recommended that those interested in trying to understand the problem of promiscuity should familiarize themselves with this book which is an important contribution to the problem.

**SURGERY OF THE EYE.** By Meyer Wiener, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Washington University. Second Edition. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1949. \$12.00.

The purpose of this text is to present a few well explained and illustrated surgical procedures which, in the author's long and extensive experience, have proven most satisfactory.

This is a text that can be read with benefit by both the surgeon who is beginning his training and the more experienced surgeon.

Chapter one is one of the best resumes of what constitutes a good surgeon and the principles of good surgery that the reviewer has had the privilege of reading.

Chapter three upon anesthesia is clearly explained and well illustrated; and since successful surgery today is dependent upon good anesthesia, this chapter is especially valuable.

Chapter five advocates and explains the method of making the patient ambulatory with monocular eye pad after 24 hours. This method is rapidly becoming accepted practice due to the use of closing sutures.

Chapter eight includes an explanation of Barkan's goniotomy procedure for congenital glaucoma.

Chapter eleven is a revised approach to corneal surgery in which the author was especially well known.

Chapter eighteen is clear and concise with exceptionally clear illustrations accompanying description of the operative technique in dacryocystorhinostomy.

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**GERIATRIC MEDICINE—THE CARE OF THE AGING AND THE AGED.** Edited by Edward J. Stieglitz, M.S., M.D., Attending Internist, Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, Md. Second edition, illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$12.00.

Philosophically and medically this is a good book. There is a large field for it, and it fits into that field fairly well. It deals with the problems and diseases of the aged and of the aging, and presents a wealth of information otherwise not readily available about this large group of patients. The editor and his collaborators are interested not only in what happens to the organs of the older patient but also in what goes on in his personality and environment. They sympathetically consider the patient who has the disease as well as the disease which is making the patient ill. With more and more diseases (notably cancer) being scare-headlined, such an outlook becomes particularly valuable, both to encounter and to pass on.

Perhaps the best chapters are those on "general considerations," on senescent changes in various normal organs and systems, and on the changes which occur in the personality during senescence. These chapters are particularly helpful in their discussions of the emotional aspects of old age. On the other hand, the chapters dealing with specific diseases, while adequate, are not outstanding. One reason for this is that the book's policy includes an attempt to discuss as phenomena of old age many conditions which, actually, may affect any stage of life. Some of the collaborators, in recognizing this fact, admit it in almost every paragraph, but still go on to give a summary of these conditions—which may be found in any textbook of medicine.

One further criticism may be made, not of the content of the book but of the style: The writing of certain of the authors is ponderous and circumlocutory.

The book, on the whole, however, has much to offer. It has a place in the library of the general practitioner as well as in that of the man who may attempt to specialize in geriatrics.